Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A multi-layered, compression molded preform which is capable of being reshaped to a multi-layered bottle, said preform comprising

a mouth portion, a body portion and a bottom portion, wherein at least the body portion and the bottom portion comprise an inner layer, ~~an~~ one or more intermediate layers, and an outer layer,

said preform having a molecular orientation and shape ~~formed~~ produced by compression molding ~~from~~ a composite molten resin lump (27),

wherein, at the center of the bottom portion, a half-width of a diffuse scattering peak by an X-ray diffraction of a surface of the outer layer is larger than a half-width of a diffuse scattering peak by an X-ray diffraction of a surface of the inner layer;

wherein at least one of said one or more intermediate layers ~~are~~ is made of at least one material selected from the group consisting of gas barrier resin, recycled resin and heat-resistant resin;

wherein said one or more intermediate layers are completely sealed by the inner layer and the outer layer which are made of polyester; and

a gate portion or a trace of the gate portion is not present in the bottom portion.

2. (Original) A multi-layered, compression molded preform according to claim 1, wherein an adhesive resin layer is interposed at least either between the inner layer and the intermediate layer or between the outer layer and the intermediate layer.

3. (Withdrawn) A multi-layered bottle which is a product of a biaxial stretch blow molding of the multi-layered compression molded preform according to claim 1, wherein

the multi-layered bottle includes a mouth portion, a shoulder portion, a body portion and a bottom portion,

at least the shoulder portion, the body portion and the bottom portion include an inner layer, an intermediate layer and an outer layer, and,

at the center of the bottom portion, a half-width of a diffuse scattering peak by an X-ray diffraction of a surface of the outer layer is larger than a half-width of a diffuse scattering peak by an X-ray diffraction of a surface of the inner layer.

4. (Original) The multi-layered preform of claim 1 having a generally cylindrical and elongated shape.

5. (canceled)

6. (Original) The multi-layered and compression molded preform of claim 1 wherein said mouth portion comprises an external thread.

7. (Withdrawn) A multi-layered bottle which is a product of a biaxial stretch blow molding of the multi-layered compression molded preform according to claim 2, wherein

the multi-layered bottle includes a mouth portion, a shoulder portion, a body portion and a bottom portion,

at least the shoulder portion, the body portion and the bottom portion include an inner layer, an intermediate layer and an outer layer, and,

at the center of the bottom portion, a half-width of a diffuse scattering peak by an X-ray diffraction of a surface of the outer layer is larger than a half-width of a diffuse scattering peak by an X-ray diffraction of a surface of the inner layer.

8. (Withdrawn) A multi-layered bottle which is a product of a biaxial stretch blow molding of the multi-layered compression molded preform according to claim 5, wherein

the multi-layered bottle includes a mouth portion, a shoulder portion, a body portion and a bottom portion,

at least the shoulder portion, the body portion and the bottom portion include an inner layer, an intermediate layer and an outer layer, and,

at the center of the bottom portion, a half-width of a diffuse scattering peak by an X-ray diffraction of a surface of the outer layer is larger than a half-width of a diffuse scattering peak by an X-ray diffraction of a surface of the inner layer.

9. (Withdrawn) A multi-layered bottle which is a product of a biaxial stretch blow molding of the multi-layered compression molded preform according to claim 6, wherein

the multi-layered bottle includes a mouth portion, a shoulder portion, a body portion and a bottom portion,

at least the shoulder portion, the body portion and the bottom portion include an inner layer, an intermediate layer and an outer layer, and,

at the center of the bottom portion, a half-width of a diffuse scattering peak by an X-ray diffraction of a surface of the outer layer is larger than a half-width of a diffuse scattering peak by an X-ray diffraction of a surface of the inner layer.

10. (Withdrawn) A method of forming a multi-layered, compression molded preform according to claim 1, said compression molded preform being adapted to be reshaped to a multi-layered bottle, comprising

forming a molten resin lump comprising a first molten resin surrounded by a second molten resin, and wherein said second molten resin is surrounded by a third molten resin, and

compression shaping said composite molten resin lump into a multi-layered preform having a mouth portion, a body portion and a bottom portion, wherein at least the body portion and the bottom portion comprise an inner layer, an intermediate layer and an outer layer.

11. (Withdrawn) A method of making a multi-layered bottle, comprising

forming a molten resin lump comprising a first molten resin surrounded by a second molten resin, and wherein said second molten resin is surrounded by a third molten resin,

compression shaping said composite molten resin lump into a multi-layered preform having a mouth portion, a body portion and a bottom portion, wherein at least the body portion and the bottom portion comprise an inner layer, an intermediate layer and an outer layer, and

axial stretch blow molding said multi-layered compression molded preform into a multi-layered bottle.